

NEW REPORT EXPOSES GOVERNMENT'S SYSTEMATIC HUMAN-RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN PUNJAB

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, Ram Narayan Kumar, the producer of the excellent video "Disappearances in Punjab", and Cynthia Mahmood, a professor at the University of Maine who has studied issues in Punjab, issued a detailed reported entitled "Disappearances in Punjab and the Impunity of the Indian State." It exposes the brutal tyranny that has been imposed on the Sikhs of Punjab, Khalistan by "the world's largest democracy."

The report exposes India's "war without quarter" against the Sikh Nation that has resulted in the extrajudicial murders of over 250,000 Sikhs since 1984. The authors describe this "war without quarter" as a "dirty water." The authors note that "the law in Punjab accommodated to, buttressed, and furthered the pattern of atrocities against Sikh citizens that had evolved against Sikh citizens. Minimal human rights were being abrogated in 'the world's largest democracy.'"

These abuses were carried out through mechanisms like the so-called "Terrorist and Disruptive Activities Act" (TADA), which permitted virtually unlimited detention of anyone without charge or trial. Even though this repressive law expired in March 1995, thousands of people continue to be held under it.

The report contains extensive discussion of the case of Jaswant Singh Khaira, who was kidnapped and murdered by the police after he exposed the Indian government's brutal mass cremation policy in Punjab. After his report, the Tarn Taran police chief, Ajit Sandhu, told Mr. Khaira, "We can make one more body disappear." It appears that this promise has been kept. Now the police have filed false charges against Jaspal Singh Dhillon, who assisted and continued Mr. Khaira's work. The Indian Supreme Court described this policy as "worse than a genocide." It said that there have been "flagrant violation of human rights on a mass scale."

The report also demonstrates the weakness of India's National Human Rights Commission, which cannot investigate abuses by the security forces and cannot investigate cases over a year old. The Commission is essentially impotent.

As a result of these abuses, 18 human-rights organizations and 13 individuals who have been active in human-rights work formed the Coordination Committee on Disappearances in Panjab, which then appointed the Peoples Commission on Human Rights Violations in Punjab. This commission has issued 90 citations and taken over 3,000 more cases. The government has taken action to close down the commission and tried to prevent its first meeting from taking place. The report shows that the government has worked to silence human-rights groups through intimidation and violence.

Mr. Speaker, these events occurred in only one of India's 25 states. There are currently 17 freedom movements within India's borders. The United States is a bastion of freedom in the world. We should not be supporting such

a repressive country. The sanctions we placed on India this spring must be maintained and we should also cut off its U.S. aid. It is now apparent that only when the people of Punjab, Khalistan and the other captive nations of the Indian subcontinent are allowed to claim their sovereignty will their people live in freedom, peace, prosperity, and stability. The United States Congress can help make that happen by declaring our support for free and fair plebiscites on independence in Punjab, Khalistan and in Kashmir. By these means we can help end these abuses and bring freedom to all the people of South Asia.

I thank Dr. Gurmit Singh Aulakh, President of the Council of Khalistan, for bringing this report to my attention and his continued effort to free his nation from the repression of the Indian government.

HONORING CLAUDE GANAYE**HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to World War II hero Claude Ganaye, who in September 1944, was a 16-year-old French national whose actions saved the lives of United States combat troops of the 29th Infantry Division. Veterans of that division gratefully recall his bravery.

Even though Claude Ganaye and his family had been driven from their home in Brest, France, by Nazi troops, young Claude had the presence of mind to note the location of German mines, snipers and gun emplacements. Claude Ganaye found a French-speaking GI, Philip Roy of Company L, 116th Infantry to whom he provided his detailed intelligence. Acting on this information, the 29th Infantry Division was able to avoid casualties while taking enemy positions and capturing 40 prisoners.

Twenty years ago, Mr. Ganaye moved to California where he became a naturalized citizen of the country whose troops he guided from harm's way. Mr. Ganaye resides with his family in the 6th Congressional District whose citizens thank him for the courage and composure he, as a teenager, demonstrated in the mind-numbing conditions that marked the heroic allied invasion of France. It is fitting too, as we honor our veterans, to join them in acknowledging Claude Ganaye's contribution to his adopted nation. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Claude Ganaye.

PURPLE HEART AND POW MEDALS FOR JOSEPH LAJZER**HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, on September 18, 1998, National Prisoner of War/Missing In Action Recognition Day, our nation finally honored one of the few remaining heroes and survivors of the Bataan Death March. During the graduation of new air men and women from basic training at Lackland Air

Force Base, Retired Army Air Corps World War II veteran Tech. Sgt. Joseph Lajzer was awarded the Purple Heart and POW medals for injuries sustained more than 56 years ago in the jungles of the Philippines.

Joseph Lajzer volunteered for the Army in 1941 at the age of twenty. He was trained as a tanker and his unit, B Company of the 192d Tank Battalion, was sent to Clark Field in the Philippines. Not long after the attack on Pearl Harbor, the Japanese attacked and landed in the Philippines. After many days of intense fighting and desperately short of medical supplies, food, and ammunition, Mr. Lajzer's unit was captured on April 8, 1942. The following day the tragic Bataan Death March began.

The horrors of the six day march defy any description. Nearly 650 American soldiers along with thousands of Filipino soldiers died during the march. For the next three and one half years, Lajzer endured unspeakable pestilence, starvation, and brutality while in captivity. Joseph Lajzer was finally liberated on September 6, 1945, but had to endure additional months in military hospitals recovering from injuries inflicted by his Japanese captors.

Tech. Sgt. Lajzer's services to our nation didn't end after his release. He went on to serve for a total of 25 years, retiring from the United States Air Force in 1966. In spite of his extraordinary service in uniform, Lajzer was never formally recognized. He waited patiently for more than twenty years while administrative and other delays prevented the award of the Purple Heart and the POW medals to this deserving American. Finally, on September 18, 1998, our nation recognized and honored Tech. Sgt. Lajzer.

A SOLDIER BY AN UNKNOWN AUTHOR AT BATAAN/CORREGIDOR

A soldier is a nobody, we hear lots of people say. He is the outcast of the world and always in the way.

We admit there are bad ones from the Army to the Marines, but the majority you will find, the most worthy ever seen.

Most people condemn the soldier when he stops to take a drink or two, but does a soldier condemn you, when you stop to take a few.

Now don't scorn the soldier but clasp him by the hand, for the uniform he wears means protection to our land.

The government picks its soldier from the million far and wide, so please place him as your equal good buddies side by side.

When a soldier goes to battle you cheer him on the way, you say he is a hero when in the ground he lay.

But the hardest battle of the soldier is in the time of peace, when all mock and scorn him and treat him like a beast.

With these few lines we close sir, we hope we don't offend but when you meet a soldier just treat him like a friend.

TRIBUTE TO BONNIE KIBBEE**HON. DUNCAN HUNTER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 20, 1998

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the outstanding life of a friend from my hometown, Bonnie Kibbee of Alpine, California. Bonnie passed away last month and I would like to take a moment to commend the